ABSTRACT

In an error correction method for performing error correction on an error correction unit block in which main data are interleaved, after rearranging code lines in the order of error correction, it is judged whether the corresponding erasure position information indicates "erasure of data" or not with respect to only byte positions in a code line at a boundary between a main data area and a sub data area or a SY area, and erasure position information is set for only positions where erasure position information should be newly obtained. With respect to other byte positions, erasure position information at the same byte positions in a previous code line in the error correction order is set.